

This essay deals with the reflection of the motif of homosexuality in Cuban exile literature, with special focus on the work by the authors of the so called "Mariel generation". The beginning of the essay explains the perception of the motif of homosexuality in literary and historical context. The most relevant conclusion of this part is the fact that despite the existence of this topic for centuries, it could be finally freely depicted in the 1950s in the 20th century. Thus, it does not mean any "new" literature, but a theme which is reflected in new conditions. Still, towards the end of the 20th century, after AIDS is discovered, the theme has to face again some signs of social refusal. The key sources in this part have been the works by Gregory Woods and Václav Jamek. The essay then analyzes the motif of homosexuality in Cuban literature, focusing on authors who wrote about homosexuality and thus influenced the authors of the Mariel generation i.e. José Lezama Lima, Virgilio Píñera or Guillermo Cabrera Infante. It also explains the oppressive attitude of the Cuban regime towards homosexual individuals. To understand the work of the Mariel generation, the essay presents in more details the problems with its denomination and criteria to belong to this group. The figures of literary criticism do not have a clear opinion on what is the point of attention of the Mariel generation. They mention frequently that what brings them together is rather their experience of the life in Cuba than a compact literary programme. For this part, the key works have been the essays by Jesús J. Barquet, Lilian Bertot, Luis de la Paz, Juan Abreu or Anežka Charvátová. Major part is devoted to the analysis of the fragments by three authors of the Mariel generation Reinaldo Arenas, Roberto Valero and René Ariza. It analyzes their literary images with their meaning and the style of each of the authors.